



Solicitation: 02-025

Due Date: 20 November 2002

Classification: A

Type: Procurement

Agency:

Office of Naval Research
800 North Quincy Street
Ballston Center Tower One
Arlington, VA 22217-5660

Title: Fiscal Year 2003 Department of Defense (DoD) Multidisciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative (MURI)

Synopsis: The Multidisciplinary Research Program, one element of the University Research Initiative (URI), is sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Laboratories and Basic Science (ODUSD(LABS)). Awards are made on behalf of ODUSD(LABS) by four DoD research offices: the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) (hereafter collectively referred to as "agencies").

The MURI program supports basic science and engineering research of critical importance to national defense. The program is focused on multidisciplinary research efforts that intersect more than one traditional science and engineering discipline. By supporting multidisciplinary teams, the program is complementary to other DoD programs that support university research through single-investigator awards.

This FY03 MURI competition is specifically for the twelve (12) topics listed below. Detailed descriptions of the topics can be found in Proposal Information Package (PIP) of this BAA. The descriptions are intended to provide the proposer a frame of reference and are not meant to be restrictive to the possible approaches to achieving the goals of the program. Innovative ideas addressing these research topics are highly encouraged. Proposals addressing topics (1), (2) and (3) should be sent to ARO; topics (4), (5) and (6) to ONR; topics (7), (8) and (9) to AFOSR; topic (10) to DARPA; and topics (11) and (12) to the Director of Basic Research, ODUSD(LABS).

- (1) Minimal Organotypic Cell Systems
- (2) Self-Assembling Multifunctional Ceramic Composites
- (3) Fundamental Theoretical/Experimental Molecular Science Underpinning Fuel Cell Systems
- (4) Integrated Artificial Muscle, High-Lift Bio-Hydrodynamic and Neuro-Control for Biorobotic Autonomous Undersea Vehicles
- (5) Direct Thermal to Electric Energy Conversion
- (6) Image Processing Sensors for Autonomous Vehicles, Robotics, and Remote Sensing
- (7) Hybrid Inferencing from Fused Information
- (8) Biologically Enabled Synthesis of Ceramic Microdevices
- (9) Active-Vision for Control of Agile Maneuvering Aerial Vehicles in Complex 3-D Environments
- (10) Direct Nanoscale Conversion of Biomolecular Signals into Electronic Information
- (11) Synthesis of Long-Chained Sequence-Controlled Heteropolymers

(12) Laboratory Instrumentation Design Research

Proposals from a team of university investigators may be warranted because the necessary expertise in addressing the multiple facets of the topic may reside in different universities, or in different departments in the same university. Proposals must name one principal investigator as the responsible technical point of contact. Similarly one institution will be the primary awardee for purposes of award execution. The relationship among the institutions and their respective roles, as well as the apportionment of funds including sub-awards, if any, must be described in both the proposal text and budget.

Proposals are encouraged from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (as determined by the Secretary of Education to meet the requirements of 34 SFR Section 608.2) and from other Minority Institutions (as defined by 10 U.S.C. 2323 (a) (1) (C)), either individually or as members of a team. However, no funds are specifically allocated for HBCU/MI participation.

This announcement, in conjunction with the Proposal Information Package (PIP), constitutes a BAA as contemplated by FAR 6.102(d)(2) and Section 22.315 of the DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARs) - 32 CFR§22.315. No formal RFP or other solicitation regarding this announcement will be issued. Requests for the same will be disregarded. ONR will not issue paper copies of this announcement. The Government reserves the right to select for award all, some, or none of the proposals received in response to this announcement. All eligible universities may submit a technical and cost proposal, which shall be considered under these guidelines by the responsible agencies. This BAA provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. All proposals will be acknowledged. Proposals will not be returned after evaluation.

Available Funding: Through this FY03 MURI competition, DoD intends to award a total of \$100 million over five years on these new MURI projects, subject to the availability of funds and appropriation.

Eligibility Information: This MURI competition is open only to, and proposals may be submitted only by, U.S. institutions of higher education (hereafter referred to as universities), other than those of the federal government, with degree-granting programs in science and/or engineering. Ineligible organizations may collaborate on the research but may not receive MURI funds. When a modest amount of additional funding for a DoD laboratory or a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) is necessary to make the proposed collaboration possible, such funds may be requested via a separate proposal from that organization. This supplemental proposal should be attached to the primary MURI proposal and will be evaluated separately by the responsible program manager. If approved, the supplemental proposal will be funded by the responsible agency using non-URI funds available to it.

Award Information: It is anticipated that any awards will be in the form of grants. Awards will be made at funding levels commensurate with the proposed research and in response to agency missions. Each individual award generally will average \$1M per year for a base period of three years to be funded incrementally or as options. Two additional years of funding as an option are possible to bring the total award to five years. Proposers must state in their proposals that they are submitted in response to this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). Proposals will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with FAR 3.104-5 and 15.207. Government personnel will perform the evaluation of the technical and cost proposals.

General Information: Information such as detailed description of the topics, the proposal format, evaluation criteria, certifications, award notices, and reporting can be found in the [Proposal Information Package \(PIP\)](http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/02_025.htm).

Due Date And Proposal Submission: White papers must be received no later than 4:00pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time on Thursday, 12 September 2002. Full proposals must be received no later than 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, 20 November 2002. Proposer is responsible for submitting proposal so as to reach the responsible agency at the address specified below, by the date and time specified above. A proposal signed on the cover by the appropriate university official and marked "ORIGINAL," along with five copies of the signed original, must be submitted to the designated government office located at the following address:

Office of Naval Research
ATTN: Mailroom (MURI/ONR Code 363)
800 N. Quincy Street, Room 304
Arlington, VA 22217-5660
Point of Contact: Paula Barden
(703) 696-4111

Air Force Office of Scientific Research
ATTN: Mailroom (MURI 03)
4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 713
Arlington, VA 22203
Point of Contact: Dr. Spencer Wu
703-696-7315

Army Research Office
For delivery by ordinary First Class or Priority Mail (but no Express Mail) through the U.S. Postal Service:
U.S. Army Research Office (FY03 MURI)
P.O. Box 12211
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211
For other delivery (such as Express Mail, FedEx, UPS, etc.)
U.S. Army Research Office (FY03 MURI)
4300 S. Miami Blvd (Attn: Dr. Larry Russell)
Durham, NC 27703-9142
919-549-4211

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
3701 North Fairfax Drive (Attn: Dr. Robert Leheny)
Arlington, VA 22203-1714
703-696-0048

Dr. William Berry
Director of Basic Research, ODUSD(LABS)
4015 Wilson Blvd, Suite 209
Arlington, VA 22203
703-696-0363

To obtain acknowledgement of receipt of the MURI proposal, Proposer should address Appendix B found in the PIP to the Principal Investigator, affix proper postage, and CLIP TO ORIGINAL COPY OF THE PROPOSAL (do not tape or staple).

Questions: Prior to submitting a full proposal, offerors should address technical questions to the Research Topic Chief listed in the topic description. Policy questions should be addressed to Dr. Clifford Lau at lauc@onr.navy.mil. Contractual questions must be submitted by e-mail no later than 2:00pm, Eastern Standard Time, Friday, 8 November 2002, to Ross Saxton III at

saxtonr@onr.navy.mil. Questions received after this time will not be addressed. Contractual questions and responses will be made available to all interested parties from the link below on a weekly basis. Proposers should periodically check this site for changes and/or revisions.

- [Contractual questions and responses](#)

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